

# THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

FROM WASHINGTON.

**Mr. Dickinson's Speech in Washington—His Nomination as Judge Suggested—Tone of Opinion at the Capital upon Slavery and the War.**

From an Occasional Correspondent. WASHINGTON, Aug. 24, 1861.

The bold, manly speech of Daniel S. Dickinson has produced a marked impression in Democratic quarters at the Capital. Like the patriotic utterances of Douglas, who, in his declining days, forgot his party when standing in presence of his imperiled country, so Mr. Dickinson, always patriotic, has, in the present crisis, broken the chains of faction and stepped forth to speak for the Constitution and the Union.

The semi-secessionists in New-York who, following the lead of the Albany Regency, have refused to join with the Republicans in presenting a ticket composed of men favorable to a vigorous prosecution of the war, are a good deal disturbed by the straightforward course of Mr. Dickinson. His recent speech, and which was only a prolonged echo of others delivered by him earlier in the struggle, is a terrible rebuke to Democrats who try to make party capital out of the embarrassments of their country in its struggles with the foe. They quail before its fervent appeals in behalf of the Federal Government, and its scathing rebukes of their traitor friends below the Potomac.

In the present peculiar condition of parties in New-York, it seems to me that no more effective blow could be aimed at the Cow-Boys of the Regency, than to place Mr. Dickinson at the head of the Union ticket as a candidate for Judge of the Court of Appeals. He is a good lawyer, has had varied experience in a judicial capacity as a member, for six years, of the Old Court for the Correction of Errors, during two of which he, as Lieutenant-Governor, presided over its deliberations. While a member of the Court, he was in the habit of giving able opinions upon the questions which passed in review before it. During two years of this period, he was ex-officio President of the Canal Board, a tribunal which acts judicially upon a great variety of legal questions, from month to month. Since his retirement from the United States Senate, he has been industriously engaged in the practice of his profession, chiefly in the Circuit and Supreme Courts of the judicial district in which he resides. Though when looking upon his silver locks, one might think Mr. Dickinson was an old man, he is not yet sixty, and is in the full possession of all the resources of a constitution of remarkable native vigor. He would make a clear-headed, hard-working, upright member of the Court of Appeals. Within the past week, I have suggested this matter to several prominent New-York gentlemen of both parties, whom I happened to meet here, and they have heartily concurred in the propriety and expediency of Mr. D.'s nomination for this office.

Still referring to the tone of opinion here, though on a very different topic, I would remark that I have been surprised to hear the bold utterances of some members of the Democratic party in favor of the Government using the Slavery question, or, rather, I should say, the Slavery system, in every justifiable way, and with the most extreme rigor, to crush out the rebellion. Nay, more—they express the decided conviction that, unless the Government does this, it cannot be successful in the pending struggle. I have heard these opinions from men of high position in the Democracy, hailing from various parts of the country, but more especially from the West. Indeed, not being restrained by party considerations, they are wont to characterize the action of the Government on this subject as far too timid and fastidious to suit them. Of course, there are exceptions to this rule—discordant notes in the general tenor of Democratic opinion—eddis and cross currents in the drift of the tide of sentiment. But I have been surprised at the unanimity of views on this delicate topic, among Democrats who are heartily and unequivocally for the Union, and against the rebellion.

In other political circles the opinion I have indicated is quite dominant. It is especially so among those who clearly understand the origin and objects of the Jeff. Davis conspiracy, and who know how persistent and determined the conspirators are in their efforts to break up the Government, and how large and varied are their resources for carrying on the unholy work.

I know, too, that the sentiment I have mentioned exists to a large extent among the intelligent and patriotic young men who have come here from all parts of the North and West, to lay down their lives, if need be, for their country. Some of them have said to me, in so many words, that while the foe boasts of having raised a regiment of creoles and mulattoes in Louisiana to shoot them down, and while he keeps negroes employed in raising earthworks and mounting cannon to destroy them with consuming fire, they do not see why our forces should not be allowed to use this class of population for the like purpose, so that at least negro might offset negro.

Some military men, of large experience, have recently told me that negroes carefully selected and properly drilled and gaily uniformed and well equipped, would be most valuable auxiliaries to the main army as it drops down deep into the land of Dixie.

I have thus, without expressing any views of my own, or desiring to commit THE TRIBUNE to any opinion on this topic, simply given what I believe to be the drift of public sentiment here at the National Capital on this important subject.

It is known that the enemy in considerable numbers is encamped at different points on the other side of the Potomac, above this city, and not far back from the river. If he has seriously designed crossing to attack Washington, the high water of the past week has prevented his coming over. In any event, the gravest considerations demand that troops should be hurried forward to this point with all possible speed.

**THE NEW TREASURY NOTES.**  
**THE MAYORALTY OF WASHINGTON—TYPHOID FEVER IN THE HOSPITALS.**

WASHINGTON, Monday, Aug. 26, 1861.  
The new Treasury demand notes are in circulation in this city to-day. They are eagerly taken by Western men for home circulation.

The President of the Board of Aldermen of this city, Mr. Wm. F. Dore, will act as Mayor during the disability of Mr. Barrett to perform the functions of his office.

Several suspected persons here are under the careful supervision of the authorities.  
Typhoid fever has appeared in the Government hospitals, and nearly all the sick and wounded soldiers have been stricken by the disease.

Four hundred army ambulances have arrived here. Gov. Hicks of Maryland went to Annapolis on Saturday, on important business.

## FROM WESTERN VIRGINIA.

HOW THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION IS SITUATED.

THE REBEL LEE IN FORCE AND NEAR AT HAND.

HIS MOVEMENTS POSSIBLY A FEINT.

From our Special Correspondent.  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,  
CHARLESTON, VA. Aug. 22, 1861.

Public attention, which has been diverted for a time by the saddening scenes of Manassas and Springfield, is likely to be again directed to Western Virginia. Since the final rout from Laurel Hill, the defeat at Carrick's ford, and the death of Garnett, there has been a lull here, scarcely broken by a single skirmish. The strong strategic points were at once occupied by our troops; at the Cheat-Mountain Gaps the door to this country was closed, and the rebels have been altogether too busy in other quarters to attempt disputing its passage. From the Kanawha Valley they retired precipitately, hardly showing their faces after the affair at Scarce Creek; and thus the whole of Western Virginia, from the Pan Handle to the Kanawha, was freed from the rebel invaders, and left to inaugurate the loyal State Government in peace.

But the disaster at Manassas has enabled the rebels once more to assume the aggressive, and the men who were lately flying through the Gaps, and across the Cheat, and up the valley of the Kanawha, like a flock of frightened sheep, now talk valiantly of making it but a fortnight's work to drive the Abolitionists from the soil of their Ancient Dominion; while they propose to stay their victorious arms and plant their insurgent banners for a Winter's rest in the fertile plains of Southern Ohio!

The Southern mind runs naturally to gasconade; yet we have recently learned that they sometimes carry their threats to fulfillment. There is no very apparent necessity for being alarmed about Southern Ohio, neither is there any particular propriety in being foolishly secure about Western Virginia.

Davis has detached from his Army of the Potomac the most distinguished General Rebel Virginia can boast. There is no sort of doubt, though the foolish stories the telegraph has been telling were certainly enough to discredit it, that Gen. Robert E. Lee, at the head of a well-appointed army of not less than 10,000 men, is now in the mountains, and threatening our positions at the Gaps, Huttonsville, and Beverly. Ten days ago, he adopted the honorable Virginia device of trying to send spies into our camps under a flag of truce. His communication, which was on the hackneyed subject of exchange of prisoners—a subject which seems to lie wonderfully near their hearts—and was dated at Huttonsville, in Pocahontas County, was duly received; but the spies with the flag were, greatly to their disappointment, allowed to remain beyond the lines, and under the eye of vigilant sentries. Since that time it is supposed, though not certainly established, that Wise—who, since he was driven out from the Kanawha, has been lying at Covington—has effected a junction with Lee. There are also rumors of other strong rebel reinforcements, but in this country of rumors these receive very little attention.

For a week, the lines of the two hostile armies have been drawing closer and closer; skirmishes between scouts are of frequent occurrence, and the pickets of the two camps are so near that you can scarcely get beyond the lines of your own side without being in the territory and liable to the assassin assaults of the other. A few days ago, the sharpest skirmish we have had in North-Western Virginia since the old days of Philippi and Laurel Hill, occurred on the Greenbrier. A party of our scouts had got within the enemy's lines, and were deliberately making such observations as seemed useful, when they came upon a force of the Rebels. A brisk fight occurred; our boys fought desperately, and finally succeeded in effecting their escape, after killing seven of the enemy, without the loss of a man on our side.

It would seem that the two armies could hardly be thus facing each other long without an engagement. And yet I confess that I have felt skeptical as to whether Lee means to give us battle at all. There are numerous indications which give ground for at least a suspicion that the demonstration on Western Virginia is intended only for a feint, that may, by a strong show of forces, headed by their best-known General, divert attention from more important movements now secretly progressing at the eastward. Lee is but about forty miles from direct railroad communication with Richmond or Manassas; and it is far from impossible that he may be held here to the last moment, for the purpose of diverting to Western Virginia troops and attention that ought to be given to Washington and Maryland.

It is certain that, for the present, unless Lee gives us battle, there will be none. The object of the Army of Occupation is simply to hold what we have already won—not to make aggressive demonstrations across the mountains upon the Valley of Virginia. At the same time preparations are going on just as vigorously as though Western Virginia had to be held against the combined strength of all the Rebel forces in the State. The army here, already strong, is being rapidly reinforced by the troops from other sections of the Department, where they are not needed; cavalry is being brought in, and the supply of effective artillery is being largely increased.

Meanwhile, our "situation" is, briefly, this: At the Cheat Mountain Gaps, the (nominal at least) key to this country, Brig-Gen. Reynolds has a strong force, well fortified in a position which naturally possesses many advantages. The rest of his brigade is distributed at Huttonsville, Beverly, Rich Mountain, and other important points in this vicinity. Our eastern line, on any point of which the enemy might make an attack, if they could only get across the mountains, stretches from Gasky Bridge, on the Kanawha, where Gen. Cox is posted with his brigade; north-easterly, in a line parallel with the mountains, clear up to Piedmont, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. This line must of course be the base for either offensive or defensive operations. Back from this, the troops are mainly engaged in guarding the railroads and suppressing the occasional risings of the Secessionists. So much of our position may, as I suppose, be safely made public.

There is an infallible barometer by which you may always gauge the feelings of the Secession-

ist of Western Virginia. When they despair of support from the Rebel troops beyond the mountains, the country is quiet, as it was after Laurel Hill and Rich Mountain. But when they are confident of assistance, there is always an outbreak of their nature, in the dastardly guerrilla bush-fighting, with which, a century ago, this country was familiar, but which, it was hoped, had forever disappeared with the aboriginal savages. The experiences of these later days may well warrant the belief that more Virginian families than that of Randolph might confess that Indian blood coursed their veins. Just now we are having another revelation of the Indian. Teamsters are fired on from the roadside, pickets are assailed at night by unseen foes. But a few miles even from the headquarters, these things have been nightly repeated. Fortunately decisive measures are likely to be adopted in this matter, and some worthy Virginians may yet discover that, however indigenous assassins may be to the soil, they do not thrive in the neighborhood of loyal bayonets.

## FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

**Discharged Soldiers—The Pending Expedition—Screws Loose—The Second Regiment all Right—The Rebel Prisoners—Review and Inspection of Troops—Protection to Union Men—More Troops Wanted—Gen. Wool's Policy Aggressive.**

From our Special Correspondent.  
FORTRESS MONROE, OLD POINT COMFORT,  
Aug. 24, 1861.

Nearly eight hundred men have been discharged from the New-York regiments alone, and sent from this Department, for prior disability. This fact shows some of the fruits of the hasty system of recruiting which has prevailed, particularly in New-York City. It is proper to state that the places of a majority of this large number have been filled by men recruited with proper care and accepted after due inspection.

The succession of gales for the last six days have prevented the sailing of the expedition which has generally been reported as destined for the coast of North Carolina. The wide publicity that has been given to the objects and destination of the expedition, and the delay that has occurred in getting off, should have enabled the Rebels to line the coast of North Carolina (if that is the destination) with soldiers and defenses. The particulars concerning the intended expedition, the number of boats and vessels loaded with stores which were to be sunk in the channels entering Albemarle Sound were given to the public with great minuteness by the Baltimore press ten days since. These particulars may or may not have been correct in every respect. The aforesaid papers, without doubt, supposed they were; but there does not seem to have been enough loyalty, or sense of propriety among the best of them, to withhold information which, if it were true, would prove so hurtful to the patriotic cause, and so valuable to the Rebels. The folly of restraining correspondents here from giving information of intended movements and doings, while the Baltimore press is free to obtain and publish the exaggerated and distorted reports which adorn their columns, is sufficiently apparent. Men of undoubted Secession sympathies come and go daily on these Baltimore steamers, a part of whose business it is to acquaint themselves with all that there is to be seen or heard of movements or intended movements here. They go in and out of the fortress and camps at will, on passes which can be obtained all too easy. There is no doubt that the flags of truce which pass back and forth so frequently now are of great convenience to the Rebels, and are not unfrequently abused. It may be that as great vigilance on our part is observed as can be, and that the only way is to suspend the boats entirely. I wish here to bear evidence to the vigilance with which Capt. Davis discharges his duties as Provost Marshal, and to his wakefulness to the abuses which, nevertheless, occur. But there are some things, some abuses, and perhaps the chief ones, which do not come within his province to correct.

All but about half a dozen of the 2d Regiment have returned to duty cheerfully, and with ideas that will make them better soldiers. The exceptions are those who refused to sign the petition. They may swell the number bound for Tortugas. The Rebel prisoners on parole who arrived here yesterday have been disappointed in not being sent by flag of truce to Norfolk as soon as they hoped. It is probable that they will not go before day after to-morrow. The following are their names: David D. Curry, Surgeon (William A. Carrington, Assistant-Surgeon Archibald Taylor, First Lieut. Henry A. Howser, Second Lieut. J. S. Dorsett, Third Lieut. James Hanger, Second Sergeant James E. Jones, Third Sergeant Wm. B. Moody, Andrew J. Maddox, Joseph W. Bengley, Joseph C. Sanford, Thomas W. Gilmer, George W. Killen, Wm. P. L. Pool, Jonathan J. Mays, S. M. Crofton, C. M. Teal, Alex. Smallman, Richard Wallace, R. W. Carter, D. H. Loring, Joseph Buckner, Jonathan Burroughs.

Yesterday afternoon, Gen. Wool made a thorough inspection of the troops at Camp Hamilton, and expressed himself pleased with their appearance and condition. It is pleasing to note the new spirit which has been imparted to both officers and men, who seem to understand that not only will the drill to which they are to be subjected be thorough, but that the regulations must be lived up to, as well by volunteers as by regulars. So far from this being regarded as something distasteful, the fact gives the greatest satisfaction. Gen. Butler has not yet removed his quarters from the fortress to one of the camps, as he probably will do, at an early day. Gen. Wool spends much of his time in acquiring a perfect knowledge of all that his predecessor has done, in reading the orders now in force, and preparing new ones. He is understood to have views relative to future movements that require an additional force. It is to be hoped that the Government will second his views at an early day as possible.

I have referred twice before to the importance of throwing protection around Union men in Virginia. There is an additional reason, one perhaps more powerful than any I have yet referred to, why this should be done. The Rebel Congress has passed a law, and Jeff. Davis has issued a proclamation putting it in force—a kindly decree, which but intensifies the tyranny—that all persons who do not acknowledge the Southern Confederacy and abjure the Union, will be regarded and treated as enemies, their property confiscated, and themselves declared aliens. Now, there are quite a number of Union men within the circle of ten miles of the fortress, of the class against whom this law and this tyrannous decree are aimed. Outlawed, hunted

and oppressed as they are, they deserve the protection of the Federal arms. The Government to which they still declare hearty allegiance and which they will not forswear, should protect them in their homes, their persons and property. They stand in danger, daily and hourly, of being seized, torn from their homes and confined as prisoners. The guerrilla bands of Davis are prowling the country over, and nearly every day make prisoners of this class of men. Their property will be burnt as Hampton was burnt. What are our troops here for, if not to protect these men and their property? What more worthy than such an object, on which to base a claim for more troops, especially if there be added to it the fact that these guerrillas and the Rebel forces will be driven back in defeat, if the troops be furnished to Gen. Wool?

The Monticello, an old favorite, has returned to the Roads. She has long had the reputation of being the fighting boat of the Squadron, and so long as Brain remains the fighting Captain, she will doubtless retain the name.

[By Telegraph.]  
FORTRESS MONROE, Aug. 25, Baltimore, Aug. 26, 1861.  
The formidable preparations for a naval expedition from Old Point are about completed. Notwithstanding the rumors about the expedition, its destination is a profound secret.

Lieut. Crosby returned last night from his third expedition to the Eastern Shore of Virginia. He went off Tangier Sound and brought back a prize schooner. Gen. Wool has spent part of the day at Newport News.

Brig-Gen. Phelps will probably remain in command of that post.

The Confederates will hereafter find it very difficult to communicate with Fortress Monroe by means of spies. No person is allowed to visit Camp Hamilton without a special pass from the commanding General or Provost Marshal.

A slight difficulty occurred yesterday between one of the released Confederate prisoners and a volunteer officer. The Confederate Captain refused the latter a light for his cigar, on the ground that he did not consider our volunteer officers gentlemen. His defenseless position saved him from punishment for the insult.

The Honduras steamer E. Saler, from New-York, and intended to run between Truxillo and Havana, has put into the Roads for a harbor.

**"THE RIGHT MAN IN THE RIGHT PLACE."**  
To the Editor of THE N. Y. TRIBUNE.

Sir: "The Colonel, if he be 'the right man for the right place,' will see that every subordinate in the corps does his duty."

If due weight be given to this sentence in your leader of Monday, it is timely, true, and complete. The Union is in greater danger from lazy Colonels than from anything else. If the Colonel understands the business of all his subordinates, and is able and willing to patiently instruct them and watch them closely, he can overcome almost all difficulties, and bring his regiment to such a condition that he need not fear to lead it into action. But if he neglect to instruct and expostulate his company commanders in the details of their special duty, the regiment is equally sure to fail in the hour of trial. This is the secret of the efficiency of the Rhode Island and Connecticut Regiments—Col. Burnside in one case and Col. Tyler in the other, setting an example with the first regiments from those States which has been followed with greater or less industry by the Colonels of those raised subsequently to theirs.

This instruction of the Captains not being, under all circumstances, a necessary duty of the Colonel, however, it needs to be said that our troops really suffer more from the ignorance and laziness of their Captains in regard to their special duties, than from all other sources combined. It is more essential that the Captains attend to their special duty than anything else; and, under ordinary circumstances, the influence of the Colonel is felt for good or evil, mainly according to the degree of efficiency with which he secures a proper attendance to this special duty on the part of the Captains. In Germany the Captain is called "the soldier's mother," and the condition of our army at this time proves that soldiers with incompetent and lazy Captains are as helpless as children who have lost their mother.

To show how true this is, let me refer to certain duties of the Captain. I am sorry that I have not a copy of the Army Regulations with me, that I could cite the orders of the Secretary of War and the President for what I shall say. You can easily satisfy yourself, however, that I am right, by inquiring of a regular officer.

It is the Captain's duty to make requisition for the food of his men. In the regular army this is the foundation of the Commissariat system. Blanks are furnished which the Captains fill once in ten days; these are passed to the Colonel, and upon them, as vouchers, a regimental requisition is formed.

Not one Captain in a hundred, probably, of those now in the field has yet made his first official demand for the food to which his company is entitled. You therefore give insufficient credit to the Commissariat in your article. It is the neglect of the Captains to which the want of proper supplies of food, may, in every case, be primarily attributed. This duty of the Captains, to be sure, has got to be no more a matter of form, the whole responsibility of supplying food being at present assumed by superior authorities, but it is because of the neglect of the Captains that it is so assumed, and it is fair to suppose that it is because of the extraordinary duty thus forced upon the superior officers that they are not always found equal to their task.

The Captains are responsible for the division, subdivision, and proper economy of the food of their companies. In many instances, I must say in most—regiments the food is unfairly divided, and so improvidently managed that one supply is often wasted before another arrives. This, in most cases, is the explanation of the complaint of inefficient supplies. The rations, well taken care of, are more than can be consumed.

It is the Captain's business to see that the rations are properly cooked. By the regulations, each Captain is ordered to visit his company's kitchen daily, for this purpose. He is especially enjoined to see that the utensils are kept clean. The regulations order distinctly that beans shall be boiled five hours. Now, go to the camps and visit the kitchens and you will never, by any chance, meet a Captain there; look at the utensils; not one in a hundred will you find clean; ask to taste the soup and you will find that the beans have not been boiled the half of five hours; swallow a spoonful, and you will soon comprehend the saying that beans kill more than bullets. This is all the Captain's fault. It is not the Colonel's, except as the Colonel neglects to follow up his Captains. It is not the Surgeon's, except as he neglects to report to the Colonel the indolence of the Captains, and to warn him of the consequences. It is not at all the Quartermaster's.

It is the Captain's duty to carefully inspect his men daily, to see that his non-commissioned officers have attended to their duty of forcing the men to wash themselves, clean their clothes, and comb their hair. It is the Captain's duty (as, in turn, officers of the day) to see to the whole police of the camp. I need not particularize. Go to the camp of half our troops, and you will need no further evidence of the special inefficiency of the captains.

Time fails me to proceed further, but I beg you to observe that what is wanted for a Captain is not military knowledge; he need not even be a good drillmaster; he can leave drill mainly to his lieutenants and sergeants; he does not need the professional education of a surgeon; he does not need to be a book-keeper. He needs to be a man of foresight, of economy, and of patience, and he should be able to read and write, and to make a simple arithmetical calculation.

The captain is an administrative office, and it is administrative ability that is wanted chiefly.

Our present captains have generally found out their unfitness for their duties, and are resigning, or anxious to resign. They find themselves unpopular, and deservedly so. There are plenty of men in the community, if they could be induced to serve, who are far better qualified for the duties of captain than those who are anxious to retire. Among our thousands of brilliant lawyers, and patientless doctors, and parishless theologians, among even our "dry-goods clerks," of whom so many are now thrown out of employment, there are plenty of healthy men, who are well calculated by education for filling this post. There are comparatively few who are fit to be, or who could make themselves fit to be, colonels or surgeons of regiments.

It should be remembered that the honor of war does not depend on a title, but on the power of leading a command, be it little or great, with prudence and with courage.

Many a man will disgrace himself as a colonel, who might have deserved well of his country, and gained undying fame as a captain.

New-York, Aug. 19, 1861.

**A RIGHT MAN FOR HIS PLACE.**

To the Editor of THE N. Y. TRIBUNE.

Sir: In several of our German papers we have met of late with the name of Col. A. Schimmelpfennig. The Philadelphia *Freie Presse*, for instance, contained, a week or two ago, an article in reference to this gentleman, who, it appears, has lived in retirement ever since he came to this country, while, in the revolutionary wars of '48 and '49, he occupied a prominent position and became one of the celebrities of Germany. The Colonel—a Prussian by birth, and now a citizen of the United States—went through the whole course of a thorough military education, and finally, at the military college of Berlin, prepared for entering the army as an officer of the staff. He served for years as an officer in the Prussian army, occupied a position in the staff of the renowned Von der Tann's *Corps d'Armée* during the Schleswig-Holstein war against the Danes, and distinguished himself in the battle of Schleswig. Afterward, he, with a number of other officers, organized the revolutionary army in the Palatinate of the Rhine, and served through the whole revolutionary war in the Grand Duchy of Baden, where he commanded an independent division of 4,500 men and 12 pieces of artillery, and by his bravery and brilliant military exploits in a succession of battles he obtained a reputation throughout Germany. Wounded in Schleswig-Holstein and again in Baden, he never tired to battle for the cause of the downtrodden people until the overwhelming armies of Prussia made further resistance impossible.

The Colonel, who arrived in this country in 1852, has since then almost exclusively devoted himself to arduous studies connected with military science, and having thus lived a secluded life, is not known to Americans beyond a small circle of friends. The Colonel, we understand, months ago offered his services to our Government, but, with no political influence whatever, and having the natural repugnance of a gentleman to antechambering for hours and days, and obtruding his services where they hardly seemed to be wanted, he was passed over unnoticed.

After the battle of Bull Run he called again at the War Department, when he was requested to raise a regiment at Philadelphia. But the time had passed by for rapidly raising regiments without employing considerable pecuniary means. The Colonel, without such means, and finding in the City of Philadelphia about 30, and in New-York over 40 colonies (not a few of them tavernkeepers, brew brewers, &c., men of more or less wealth and large circles of customers and hangers-on, always ready to enlist where there is cash and plenty of liquor) attempting to raise regiments, had, in spite, of this discouraging state of affairs, already succeeded in raising several companies when he was suddenly attacked by a severe illness of which he has just now recovered. Some of his companies had in the mean time disbanded, and the late Government order calling the companies of partially complete regiments to Washington may perhaps induce the Colonel to give up the organization of the regiment. Be this as it may, we take this occasion to direct the attention of our Government to Col. A. Schimmelpfennig, with the urgent request that capable military men of established distinction ought to be sought after instead of being neglected—aye, perchance even repulsed; that our Government should come to comprehend that we have already plenty clothing-store men, broken-down politicians, and liquor-dealer colonels, and that if we shall ever beat the Beauregards, Johnstons, Lees, &c., it might perhaps not be amiss to place, now and then, a man of military education, capacity, and reputation in command.

COMING EVENTS.

To the Editor of THE N. Y. TRIBUNE.

Sir: Passing events give new interest to the recently organized movement for inducing the free colored population of this country to emigrate to Africa. Liberia was founded as a refuge for emancipated slaves, but its progress has been so encouraging as to forebode for itself a far more exalted destiny. Our intelligent free colored men are not only looking toward it as their proper home, but they are preparing in large numbers to remove thither. Many have already gone. Of the latter, it is quite remarkable that none return. They suit the country, and the country suits them. The Stevens will sail from this port early in November, freighted with emigrants from the Middle States. The Colonization Society furnishes free passage to the departing, and provides them a home and full support for six months after arrival. Each adult receives five acres of land, and more in proportion to the size of his family. On this he can readily produce a subsistence. Fruits and vegetables grow with astonishing rapidity and luxuriance. Fish abound in all the streams and on the coast. Suffering for want of food is unknown, except when caused by laziness. On the contrary, there are numerous instances of men who landed there without a dollar in their pockets, and in a few years have become independent. Commerce flourishes among the emigrants, who already own nearly thirty vessels. The native Africans embark in trading of all kinds with genuine American avidity. Their supplies of gold, ivory, palm-oil, cotton and coffee, increase with the ability of the settlers to purchase. Staples now exist which were unknown in African commerce ten years ago. Already there are half a million of coffee trees. Brazil, with its immense exportation of coffee, did not make a tithe of such progress. These coffee plantations are extending annually. Twenty acres thus stocked will make the owner rich. Eight years ago not a pound of sugar was manufactured, but last year one farmer produced 55 hogsheads, while now, for nearly twenty miles on one river there are plantations of sugar-cane. Cotton grows spontaneously, and is largely manufactured by the natives into cloth, of which equal to half a million pounds are annually exported.

The rapidly extending foreign commerce of Liberia finds its most congenial outlet in England. That country sympathizes with and fosters it, while ours has insolently repelled it. England has recognized the independence of the Republic, but this Government, at Southern dictation, barely acknowledges its existence. England offers a better market and more honorable intercourse. We impose such extra burdens on her commerce as to drive it from our ports. But with time, even we are becoming enlightened as to the future of Liberia, and knowledge of its strong points is steadily becoming diffused among our free colored population. Letters from emigrants are being constantly received by friends at home, giving encouraging but true accounts of general prosperity, and calling for them to change their hopeless condition here to a hopeful one there. It is a re-encounter of the countless invocations of our Irish immigrants to friends at home, and is being followed by similar results. As political dislocations abroad, war, bankruptcy, or famine, have uniformly led to large emigrations hither, so our present troubles, in which the negro population is so prominent an element, must give to the African exodus an increased momentum, either voluntary or compulsory. Speculation as to the ultimate solution of these troubles,

so far as the negro is concerned, may yet be premature. But it is evident that the hand which, for more than a century, moved but one way upon the dial, has been suddenly arrested in its circuit; and that if not actually moving backward, as it did the sun's orbit by divine command, it is clear that the motor has been stricken with irreparable palsy. As the magnet upon which the bolt from Heaven has descended, discovers that its poles have been suddenly reversed, so the public mind, electrified by the slaveholding explosion, now vibrates toward a point directly opposite from that to which it had quietly settled. We may safely rest in the belief that this question will be determined by higher agencies than any of human invention.

The emigration to Liberia was smaller in 1860 than for several previous years. But much alarm then existed here that the sudden introduction of 4,000 recaptured Africans would barbarize the settlement. The enemies of colonization in this country industriously propagated the idea that so large an infusion of ignorance and heathen vice would destroy it. The fear thus groundlessly excited diminished emigration. It is now known that all these recaptured people have been quietly absorbed by the settlement, and that so far from proving dangerous or vicious, they have been a desirable acquisition. Hence the desire to emigrate is reviving. Current events must give to it a new impetus. This is aided by noble contributions of money from various sources. The legacy of \$10,000 from the late Seth Grosvenor was used in building a steamer, now of great value to the Republic. The bequest of \$50,000 by the late Asa G. Phelps to found the Liberia College, though by the Court of Appeals declared invalid for want of precision, has been held sacred by its noble children, who decline taking advantage of the technical defect. It secures the crowning advantage to young Liberians of a complete education. But for a similar outlay over \$150,000 has been received from the estate of a deceased friend of colonization in Pittsburgh, Mr. Avery. Churches they have already, and schools will soon exist in profusion.

But our colored population evince a strange inertia, as a body, toward embracing the great advantages offered in Liberia. Here they persistently remain, the willing foot-ball of another race, unable while with us to rise, but abundantly content to do so there. The immigrants from Ireland and Germany undergo many times greater hardships in finding settlements in this country than colored emigrants will meet with in removing to Africa. Few foreigners have friendly caretakers greeting them on their arrival, giving them homes, and feeding and nursing them for six months. Yet all this is done gratuitously for the blacks. Can the cause of this unwillingness to remove to a better country be laziness or cowardice? If it be ignorance of what would be their condition in Africa, as well as of what it may be here when the results of this slaveholders' rebellion begin to unfold themselves, it is time the masses should be informed as to both. If Slavery is to be wiped out, the Northern States will still be the goal toward which thousands of liberated chattels will direct their steps. They are already so crowded with blacks that numbers earn but a precarious living. The foreigners have ousted thousands from life-long employments. A fresh influx of their own color, competing for the little employment that remains, must create a pressure so great that all cannot survive it. They will become too thick to thrive. Emigration somewhere must succeed, voluntary or compulsory. Wisdom would dictate that all who can leave should do so before this pressure is felt. The officers of the Colonization Society are so liberal, comfort is so assured, and absolute independence so placed within their grasp, that it is little to the credit of the race to find such an array of inducements so studiously rejected by the masses. If this Government were to hold out the quarter of them to the Irish, Ireland would speedily be emptied on our shores.

AN EMANICIPATIONIST.  
New-York, Aug. 16, 1861.

**WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY.**

To the Editor of THE N. Y. TRIBUNE.

Sir: This academy seems to draw to it at the present time the attention of the Government and country. The resignation of so many officers educated there, as well as their unblinking treason, calls loudly for the institution of some plan by which the evil may be abated, and the fidelity of our officers secured.

It is well known that politicians have now the right to provide pupils for West Point. Hence a candidate is procured by political favoritism; and what is the result? Why, it happens that many of the cadres, after a trial of a year or more, are found incompetent, and are therefore discharged. It would be an interesting thing to calculate the amount of money thrown away on such "political trash," as it would convincingly show the country that it is not too desirous for the "wisdom" and "loyalty" of its army. Sir, when you say, "Our army can never be all that it should until this fundamental vice of West Point is removed."

But what is the remedy proposed? The *New-York Tribune* advocates this scheme:

"Give those youths who are neither politicians nor the sons of politicians a chance. Let admission to the Military Academy be made by competitive examination. Let a boy's own intelligence, genius, moral worth, be the needed quality for the position. Let the number of votes he can control. Let a board of Examiners be appointed in every Congressional District, and let every youth be enabled to present himself for examination and the most worthy be appointed."

This, so far as civilians are concerned, is certainly an advance on the present system; but it is far from being as democratic as its author supposes. It certainly is not a remedy radical enough to meet our views.

One who has been to West Point, and has "sat on the head," when he says "that all officers in the army should rise by merit from the ranks," this is not only true democracy, but it is also justice to the army, whose rank and file are utterly ignored by either of the above schemes. I assert that in a Republican Government, rank and file should be as effective as power for the "wisdom" and "loyalty" of its army. Sir, when you say, "Our army can never be all that it should until this fundamental vice of West Point is removed."

But what is the remedy proposed? The *New-York Tribune* advocates this scheme:

"Give those youths who are neither politicians nor the sons of politicians a chance. Let admission to the Military Academy be made by competitive examination. Let a boy's own intelligence, genius, moral worth, be the needed quality for the position. Let the number of votes he can control. Let a board of Examiners be appointed in every Congressional District, and let every youth be enabled to present himself for examination and the most worthy be appointed."

This, so far as civilians are concerned, is certainly an advance on the present system; but it is far from being as democratic as its author supposes. It certainly is not a remedy radical enough to meet our views. One who has been to West Point, and has "sat on